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1971 ANNUAL REPORT

Pender
New Hanover
Counties

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
Highway 117A South
Burgaw, North Carolina 28425

FOREWORD

At the close of each year the Pender-New Hanover County ASC Committees publish an annual report to keep the public abreast of ASCS operations in the county. ASCS is an organization developed for the purpose of achieving the greatest protection and improvement of the natural resources of the farms of our nation. The goal of the organization at all times is to assure the farmers a fair share of the national income.

We have attempted to give a brief explanation of each of the programs administered by the Pender-New Hanover County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service during 1971. We hope that through this report we can promote a clearer understanding of ASCS's purpose and function.

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts put forth by the community committeemen, farmers, other agricultural agencies, our District Director, and the State ASCS Office Staff to make our operation a success in Pender-New Hanover County during 1971.

The Pender County ASCS Office is located in the county seat, Burgaw, North Carolina, on Highway 117A south. A sub-office is maintained in Wilmington, North Carolina, located in the Post Office Building at Front and Chestnut Streets. Our office hours are from 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m., Monday through Friday.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

ADMINISTRATION

General 1
County Committee 2
Pender-New Hanover ASCS Organizational Chart 3
Compliance Personnel 4
Community Committeemen 5

RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

General 6

COMPLIANCE

General 7

INFORMATION 8

PRICE SUPPORT

General 9
Farm Storage Structure & Drying Equipment Loans 10
Summary of Storage Structure Loans Disbursed 10
Summary of Drying Equipment Loans Disbursed 10
Summary of Farm-Stored Commodity Loans Disbursed 11

PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT

General 12
Tobacco 13
Cotton 14
Peanuts 15
Wheat 16
Feed Grain 17
Cropland Adjustment Program 18

APPRECIATION 19

ADMINISTRATION

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or ASCS, is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is responsible for administering farm programs enacted by Congress and regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The programs administered by the Pender-New Hanover County ASCS Office in 1971 included the Rural Environmental Assistance Program, Cropland Adjustment Program, the Price Support Program, Production Adjustment Program, and Compliance.

The State ASC Committee is composed of five members who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The State Committee is responsible for ASCS policy determination at the state level. State ASCS offices are operated by state executive directors. Representatives from the state offices, known as district directors, serve county offices by districts. These men serve as liaison for state and county offices through their guidance on technical problems.

County ASCS offices are under the direction of county executive directors, who are hired by farmer-elected county committees. Elections are held annually for the purpose of electing a three-man committee to serve for the entire county, and a three-man committee to serve for each ASCS community in the county. Pender and New Hanover Counties consist of fifteen communities.

The county committee is responsible for determining ASCS policy within the regulations and State Committee policies. These determinations are carried out through the county executive director, who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the county office. The community committeemen keep the farmers of their respective community informed about the various programs and serve in other capacities as may be necessary.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the county committee is to direct the administration of all ASCS programs, inclusive, of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the Sugar Act of 1948, the Soil Bank Act and any amendments to such Acts, and such other acts of Congress as the Secretary of Agriculture or Congress may designate. The county committee is assisted by the community committee and other personnel employed by the county committee in carrying out the duties of ASCS.

People elected community committeemen elect each year the county committee composed of three regular members and two alternate members.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

PENDER	NEW HANOVER
Jack M. Woodcock	John H. Covil
Roy M. Thomas	Albert D. Cox, Jr.
DeLeon Fennell	Gerrit Swart

ALTERNATES

PENDER	NEW HANOVER
James V. Eakins, First	M. S. Emmart, First
A. C. Bond, Second	J. D. McCarley, III, Second

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

V. H. Johnson
M. H. Cornwell

1971 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

COUNTY COMMITTEE

PENDER COUNTY

Jack M. Woodcock . . . . . .Chairman
Roy M. Thomas . . . . . .Vice-Chairman
DeLeon Fennell. . . . . Regular Member

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

John H. Covil. . . . . .Chairman
Albert D. Cox, Jr.. . . . . .Vice-Chairman
Gerrit Swart. . . . . Regular Member

COUNTY OFFICE PERSONNEL

Casper Wells. . . . . .County Executive Director
Elizabeth H. Batson. . . . . Chief Program Assistant
Lawrence Chadwick. . . . . Compliance Supervisor
Elsie J. English. . . . . .Counter Program Assistant (CAP)
Della Mae Herring . . . . . Program Assistant (PA)
Florine W. Howard . . . . . .Program Assistant (ADM, PS)
Betty R. Lewis . . . . . .Program Assistant (Compliance)
Willa McGugan . . . . . .Program Assistant
Goldie P. Marshall . . . . . .Program Assistant (REAP)
Lucille P. Rivenbark . . . . . .Program Assistant (PA)

COMPLIANCE SUPERVISOR

Lawrence Chadwick

REPORTERS

Julian Anderson

Joseph A. Jasper, Jr.

William H. Jordan

Denver Hollingsworth

Howard N. Walker

1971 ASC COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN

BURGAW UPPER	BURGAW LOWER	CANETUCK
Thomas Cowan	Wiley Batson	B. Z. Corbett
William Covil	Jerry Fedoronko	R. E. Moore
James T. Wells	John Leimone	G. F. Pridgen

CASWELL	COLUMBIA UPPER	COLUMBIA LOWER
James V. Eakins	Lewis T. Debose	George Highsmith, Jr.
N. C. Corbett	Carlos Cockman	A. C. Bond
Jay Woodcock	J. H. Gurganious	Earl T. Spencer, Jr.

GRADY	HOLLY UPPER	HOLLY LOWER
L. H. Caison	Fred W. Harrell	Arthur Sawyer
Mack L. Bell	Jasper Pierce	H. L. Saunders
J. J. Rowe	Major Meadows	A. T. Tatum

LONG CREEK	ROCKY POINT	TOPSAIL UPPER
John T. Peay	R. L. Batts	William Edens
Howard A. Peay	J. C. Hutcheson	Robert King
Herbert Wagstaff	Charlie McLendon	T. E. Batson

TOPSAIL LOWER	UNION UPPER	UNION LOWER
T.W. Shingleton	J. A. Farrior, Jr.	Currie T. Carr
Neil C. Thomas	W. Carl Heath	O. E. Pate
J. W. Piver	Dixon Johnson	R. E. McCoy

RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The soil and water resources of the farm and ranch lands of our Nation must be protected and conserved. This is essential in order that farms and ranches will continue to have the capacity to produce sufficient food and other raw materials to meet the future needs of the Nation.

All the people of this Nation, not the farmers and ranchers alone, have a stake in and a part of the responsibility for protecting and conserving our farm and ranch lands. Recognizing this, the Congress appropriates funds to share with farmers and ranchers the cost of carrying out needed soil and water conservation measures. The Rural Environmental Assistance Program is the means of making this Federal cost-sharing available to farmers and ranchers.

Productive soil, adequate water, and well-managed woodland are the very foundation of American agriculture. The Rural Environmental Assistance Program is the means through which all our people, including farmers, share the costs of conserving these essential national resources. This program increases the rate of application of the research, education, technical, credit, and other services of the Department of Agriculture in actual accomplishment of essential conservation work on the land.

Pender-New Hanover County's allocation for the 1971 REA Program was $28,957. Of this amount, $1,447 was transferred to the Soil Conservation Service, $289 to the Forest Service to pay for the technical services performed for the Pender-New Hanover County REA Program. The farmers used approximately $19,327, which represents 198 farms taking advantage of the REA Program.

C O M P L I A N C E

Compliance is one of the most important functions in ASCS. In 1967 a relatively new method of compliance was used in Pender County. This method of compliance was used also in 1968, 1969, 1970, and 1971. This method is known as Compliance by Certification by the farm operator. All farmers who had allotment crops or were participating in any of the farm programs were required to determine their acreage and report them to their local ASCS office during the specified period. May 31st was the final date for wheat, and June 20th for other crops and land uses in Pender and New Hanover Counties.

Regulations require that a minimum of 16 percent of all crops and land uses be measured. Also, all farms operated by county and community committeemen and office personnel were required to be measured.

Before measurement can be started, reporters have to be secured and thoroughly trained. For the compliance activities for 1971 a total of 5 reporters were employed.

DATA FOR 1971

Staking and Referencing Service. 82

Measurement Service. 10

REGULAR COMPLIANCE PERFORMED

Name of Crop	No. of farms that Certified	No. of farms measured
Wheat-Feed Grain	1150	210
Cotton	2	0
Flue-cured Tobacco	835	279
Peanuts	128	18

INFORMATION

One of our most important goals in 1971 was to promote better public relations and to keep Pender and New Hanover farmers well informed. We know the success of farm programs depends largely on how well each farmer is informed. We, therefore, endeavored to inform farmers about changes in regulations, reminders of important dates, announcements of meetings and other information of interest pertaining to programs administered by ASCS.

Farmers of Pender and New Hanover Counties were informed of ASCS activities in 1971 by day-by-day contacts at the counter, cards and letters, news letters, news releases, radio programs, and TV programs.

Another means of keeping farmers informed about current ASCS activities is through the cooperation of ASC Community Committeemen. Although Community and County Committeemen receive pay for service performed in an official capacity, these committeemen spend much time unofficially promoting ASCS activities.

We moved into our new quarters in November, 1970, in the new Neighborhood Facilities Building, and are enjoying our new office very much. We invite you to visit us and take a tour of our quarters, examine our office equipment, and ask questions about our operations.

PRICE SUPPORT

Government price support programs are administered by ASCS to aid the farmer in obtaining a fair price for what he produces and to promote orderly marketing.

ASCS county offices are authorized to make warehouse and farm storage loans, as well as enter into purchase agreements with eligible producers of grains. Price support was made available to eligible farmers during 1971 on the following commodities: corn, cotton, cottonseed, barley, grain sorghum, oats, rye, honey, peanuts, soybeans, tobacco, wool, and wheat.

Only producers participating in the feed grain program were eligible for price support loans and purchase agreements on feed grains.

The price support program on cotton is carried out by ASCS through the making of warehouse stored loans to eligible producers. Loan documents were prepared by approved loan clerks or ASCS county offices. Most loans were disbursed by county ASCS offices.

Peanut support is available through loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers and also through direct loans to peanut producers. The 1971 crop of peanuts was supported by a national average of $268.50 per ton. Virginia-type peanuts were supported at $278.54 per ton in 1971. This is the variety most commonly grown in Pender and New Hanover Counties.

Tobacco support is available through tobacco loans made by the Commodity Credit Corporation to cooperative associations of farmers which, in turn, make advances to eligible producers either directly or through auction warehouses. In 1971 the flue-cured tobacco crop was supported at an average of 69.4¢ per pound.

Any farmer desiring to receive price support for storage of commodities, must provide adequate and acceptable storage for the commodity either on the farm or in an approved commercial warehouse. Some farmers miss the advantage of price support because they do not have adequate storage. If farmers have adequate storage they may obtain price support loans which will enable them to take advantage of any price increase. In a number of cases income is increased above that which would have been received had the commodity been sold on a usually depressed market at harvest time.

FARM STORAGE STRUCTURE AND DRYING EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Since 1949 ASCS county offices have operated a loan program on storage and drying equipment. This program is to help farmers provide for storing commodities to be placed under price support. Loans are made available to producers to finance the purchase of farm storage facilities and drying equipment. The maximum amount that can be loaned on needed farm storage is 85 percent of the cost. On drying equipment the maximum amount that can be loaned is 85 percent of the cost of applicant's needed drying equipment, or $5000, whichever is lesser.

There is no service fee for either type loan. Each type loan is repayable in four installments over a five-year period. The first payment is due one year after the date of disbursement of the loan. No insurance is required, but the borrower is responsible for any loss that occurs.

SUMMARY OF STORAGE STRUCTURE AND DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS DISBURSED

January 1, 1971 December 31, 1971

FARM STORAGE STRUCTURE LOANS

1.	Number of loans disbursed during period	10
2.	Capacity of loans during period	57,700

DRYING EQUIPMENT LOANS

1.	Number of loans disbursed in 1971	14
2.	Amount of loans disbursed in 1971	$ 35,298

FARM STORED COMMODITY LOANS

Price Support Programs are also administered by USDA to stabilize prices on farm commodities. Depending upon the commodity, farmers may obtain support price by loans and through sale of farm products. In the case of wool, direct payments are made through the incentive programs and price support payments are made directly to eligible participants under the cotton, feed grain, and wheat annual programs.

Price support rates are proclaimed by the Secretary of Agriculture each year.

1971 ASCS LOAN RATES (North Carolina)

Commodity	Loan Rate	Payment in Kind Rate	Measurement
Barley	$ .86	$	Bushel
Corn	1.22	.32	Bushel
Oats	.65		Bushel
Rye	1.07		Bushel
Soybeans	2.24		Bushel
Wheat	1.31	1.60	Bushel
Honey	13.8¢		Pound
Peanuts	278.54 (Va. type-av.grade)		Ton
Cotton (MID 1")	20.50¢ Eastern	.15	Pound
Tobacco	71.5		Pound
Wool	.72		Pound

1971 COMMODITY LOANS

Commodity	Number Loans	Amount Disbursed	Bushels
Corn	39	$ 197,749	181,119
Soybeans	11	73,674	36,850

PRODUCTION ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

GENERAL

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as enacted on February 6, 1938, contained the first authorization for our present acreage allotment and marketing quota program. The Act authorizes acreage allotments and marketing quotas on wheat, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, and rice. Prior to 1959, the Act also permitted acreage allotments on corn. However, as a result of the Agricultural Act of 1958 and a vote by farmers in the commercial corn area, acreage allotments and a commercial corn producing area were not established for 1959 and subsequent crops of corn.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas were designed as a means of keeping supplies of agricultural commodities in line with demand. Marketing quotas must be approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting in a referendum before they may be placed in effect. Marketing quotas are administered by use of farm acreage allotments; however, acreage allotments are required by law for some commodities even though marketing quotas are not in effect. This is necessary in order to determine the farm's eligibility for price support when quotas are not in effect.

Acreage allotments and marketing quotas are administered as follows:

1. The Secretary of Agriculture determines the amount of cotton, tobacco, peanuts, wheat or rice needed and proclaims this as the quota or allotment.

2. This amount is divided among the states and counties generally on the basis of the past history of growing the commodity.

3. Each farmer receives his share of the national quotas as an acreage allotment based on the production history of the farm.

4. The farm operator is required to stay within all allotments established for his farm.

5. A marketing card is issued to identify the commodity when the farmer goes to market.

TOBACCO

Pender-New Hanover County had 1684 farms in 1971 with an established flue-cured tobacco allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 2832.05 acres. There was no change in the allotment for 1971.

We had one farmer in our county who filed an application for a new grower allotment for tobacco for the year 1971. This farm met the eligibility requirements for a new grower allotment and an allotment was approved in the amount of 0.43 acres.

The Lease and Transfer Program for tobacco was still in effect for 1971. A written request signed by all interested parties had to be filed with the county committee by April 1, 1971. We had 862 farmers who took advantage of this lease and transfer program in 1971, leasing a total of 1,908,207 pounds, which were moved to 341 other farms in the county who had requested this leased tobacco to be moved to their farms.

The Acreage-Poundage Program was approved by growers in a referendum in July of 1970 for the 1971, 1972, and 1973 crops of tobacco. Under this program a farmer is limited to the pounds established for his farm as well as the acreage allotted. Each farm has a marketing quota established for his farm based on the yields for his farm for the five years 1959-63. The total for our county for 1971 was 5,017,804 pounds. This does not include the over and under marketing pounds.

Under the Acreage-Poundage Program if all the pounds are not sold, the farm receives credit for this undermarketing and this can be sold the next year. We had 211,646 pounds under marketed in 1971. On the other hand, a farm was allowed to sell up to 10 percent above the established marketing quota if he desired. This overmarketing is taken from the marketing quota for the next year. We had 333,480 pounds overmarketed in 1971.

C O T T O N

In 1971 we had 99 farms with a cotton allotment, as compared to 98 farms in 1970. Total allotment on these farms was 194.3 acres. Our cotton allotments have been reduced both in size and in number of farms due to our farmers failing to plant. According to the cotton marketing quota regulations, farmers must plant or release their cotton each year in order to maintain their full allotment.

The cotton lease and transfer program was available in 1971 for farms within the county. No applications were filed for this program. Cotton allotments could not be transferred outside the county for the year 1971.

We had 85 of our cotton farmers to release their cotton allotment in the amount of 175.4 acres for reapportionment to other farms. No requests were made for this acreage in Pender County; therefore, it was surrendered to the State Committee to be used for farms in other counties.

COTTON SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

In 1971 to earn a cotton price support payment and become eligible for a CCC loan, a producer was required to sign up and set-aside from crop production an acreage equal to 20 percent of his allotment.

Another requirement was to plant cotton in order to earn a price support payment. Also, if a producer planted less than 90 percent of the base acreage allotment, the base acreage allotment for 1972 would be reduced except if the underplanting was due to drought or disaster.

Two cotton producers in Pender County signed up to participate in the program, but did not plant any cotton, therefore no payment was earned.

PEANUTS

For the year 1971 we had 209 farms with an established peanut allotment. Total allotment on these farms was 1497.8 acres.

If a producer does not want to plant his peanuts he can release them to the county committee to be reapportioned to other farms in the county. One of our farmers participated in the release and reapportionment program in 1971, releasing 2.1 acres. One farm requested this released acreage.

The lease and transfer program was still in effect in 1971, which permitted farmers to sell or lease their allotment to other farms in the county. We had 86 farmers taking advantage of this program. Eleven of these farmers sold their allotment to be transferred permanently. Acres sold amounted to 27.7. Seventy-five farmers leased their peanut allotment to other farms in the county on a temporary basis, in the amount of 405.6 acres.

Peanuts are considered one of the basic cash crops in our county. In 1971, there were 1235.6 acres of peanuts harvested. Total production from this acreage was 1,579,701 pounds, resulting in a yield per acre of 1278 pounds. This compares with a yield of 1676 pounds per acre in 1970. Wet weather prevented many of our farmers from harvesting all of their peanuts in 1971, resulting in a much lower yield per acre for our county.

A Peanut Referendum was held from December 6-10, 1971, to determine whether marketing quotas would be in effect for the crop years 1972-74. Quotas were approved in the referendum. We had 52 farmers who voted in this referendum and only two voted against quotas for the 1972-74 crops of peanuts.

W H E A T

Pender-New Hanover County had 281 farms with an established wheat allotment for the year 1971. The total allotment for these farms was 621.9 acres.

Marketing quotas were not in effect for the 1971 crop of wheat. Therefore, farmers could plant as much wheat as they wanted without paying penalty on wheat planted above the wheat allotment established for their farm.

There were no requests for new grower wheat allotments for the year 1971.

The primary objective of the 1971 Wheat Program was to bring wheat production along with feed grains in line with needs. During 1970, due to the extreme blight in corn, a sharp reduction was made in the reserve of wheat and corn, which increased the need for increased planting of wheat and feed grains for 1971.

Other provisions of the 1971 wheat program are set-aside payments were made to participants for setting aside 75 percent of their basic allotment. The entire acreage of wheat planted on the farm was eligible for price support. Substitution was allowed for wheat and feed grains.

Pender-New Hanover County had 196 producers with effective allotments of 220 acres participating in the 1971 wheat program. Payments of $12,401 were made to producers for setting aside 165 acres.

FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

The 1971 voluntary feed grain program was new in comparison to previous programs. Two feed grains -- corn and grain sorghum were eligible under the 1971 program.

Producers could participate in the 1971 program by setting-aside 20 percent of their total feed grain base. Payments were figured on the basis of individual farm program yields on one-half the feed grain base. A payment of 32 cents per bushel for corn and 29 cents for grain sorghum was made as soon as possible after July 1, 1971.

Farmers could benefit from participation in several ways depending on individual operations. Principal benefits were: (1) price support loans, and (2) set-aside payments.

Below is a summary of the participation and payments computed under the program for Pender and New Hanover Counties:

Number of farms with feed grain bases	2,265
Total feed grain base	24,924
Feed Grain farms participating	1,139
Feed Grain bases on participating farms	17,290
Set-aside acres	3,458
Amount of set-aside payments	$199,347

CROPLAND ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

The Cropland Adjustment Program began in 1966, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with farmers to divert cropland normally used for the production of feed grain, allotment and non-allotment crops, to conserving and recreational uses.

The period of agreement is for 5 to 10 years. Farmers may receive cost-share payments for establishing an approved conservation or recreation practice. Annual adjustment payments are made each October for acreage placed under agreement.

The designated acreage must be maintained for the duration of the agreements to prevent erosion and control weeds and insects. No crops may be planted for harvest or harvested on the designated acreage. All allotment crops and feed grain bases for the farm under agreement must be in compliance as well as all other farms in which the producer has an interest.

In 1971, 34 annual payments were made, which amounted to $14,571.

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO:

Pender County Board of Commissioners and taxpayers of Pender County for our conveniently located office.

State Office personnel who have been so cooperative and understanding in connection with our work.

Our District Directors, Mr. Van H. Johnson, and Mr. Max H. Cornwell, for their helpfulness, patience and understanding.

Community Committeemen for their loyalty, cooperation and advice.

The Pender Chronicle for relaying to the public ASCS articles and news.

Radio Station WPGF and TV Station WECT for their cooperation and covering of our programs.

Other agricultural agencies for their unselfish cooperation in helping to make our program a success.

Vendors and others who have cooperated so faithfully and generously.

And last, but by no means least, to the farmers of Pender-New Hanover Counties for their fine spirit of cooperation during 1971. We believe the understanding and public relations between the ASCS office and farmers of Pender and New Hanover Counties are unmatched.